

Romania Mission Work

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Greetings in the Name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Mission work. The month of March was the busiest one we ever had, and the main cause was our involvement in the relief work for Ukrainian people. The decision to do something for the people that were suffering and fleeing the war zone came naturally, in the sense that we just could not remain passive in front of such tragedies. We had no idea then of how much we'd be involved in this work. We were ready to do whatever the Lord would lead us and enable us to do. We saw God's hand in this from the very beginning, opening doors, removing any obstacle, bringing the right people in our paths. We got our passports in a couple of days, instead of a month, which is the usual waiting time. This allowed us to start making trips to Ukraine very soon. We got many more donations than we initially hoped for. A sudden and big need came up, that for a cargo van, and the Lord has met that need in record time (I will write more about this in the prayer letter for April). We got in contact with faithful and honest people in Ukraine, to deliver the goods we are bringing there. We found Ukrainian translators (two sisters that were refugees from Odessa and a lady that was fleeing the shelled city of Kharkiv with her son), to be able to give these people spiritual assistance, not just material one. We don't know what the Lord has in store for us, and how He plans to use in the future what we are doing now, but we realize that He placed us here, in this geographical space and in such times, for a purpose. And we are determined to be a spiritual light that will shine brightly and constantly for the glory of the True Light! Since adding pictures would reduce the available space, you may check pictures, videos and reports at the following address: <http://gracebiblebaptistds.com/Ukraine.html>.

In Romania, we had regular services in Bocsa and in all mission points. We received the visit of bros. David and George from Bucharest, which was an encouragement to us. Bro. David later made a mission trip to central Romania, together with Aurel Munteanu. I made a trip to Moldova with Lucian, the young man that moved from there to our town, to be close to the church. He introduced me to a brother from his home village, who has a great desire for the truth. Lucian and he were immersed two years ago by a non-denominational preacher, but after that they were left to themselves. Lucian understood his need to be scripturally baptized. He told me that he wants to come before the church and ask for baptism. We talked with this brother, and answered his questions. He is praying and considering doing the same. Even though he lives in the opposite corner of the country, the trips to Ukraine give us the possibility to have meetings there, because he lives close to our way home from Ukraine. The trips to Ukraine offer us the possibility to visit brethren and families in northern Romania, whom we can't visit very often. That is an extra blessing for us and an extra opportunity to start works in those areas.

Literature work. Miriam and Aurel are working overtime to print our regular materials in Romanian, as well as the Gospel booklets in Ukrainian. I had to put to use my limited knowledge of the Cyrillic alphabet to prepare the materials to be printed. In March, we printed 4,000 copies in Russian and 6,000 in Ukrainian. We will be translating more materials in the near future.

Thank you very much for all the love and appreciation that you showed us! It means a lot to us and it is a great encouragement! Thank you for praying for my health condition, as well! I will write updates in the next prayer letter. **Bro. Raul**